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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Prandis Airfield

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 29 September 1953

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1 1 - one sketch on ditto

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. Air activity by Il-10s was observed at Prandis airfield between 9 a.m. and noon on 24 July 1953. The aircraft continuously took off individually and in elements of twos and headed west until they were out of sight and hearing. At the landings [REDACTED] there were no machine guns mounted in the rear side of the cabin. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At 1:30 p.m., an orange smoke signal was fired at the eastern end of the runway. Subsequently, the Il-10s, which were parked in the northeastern section of the landing field during the noon hours, were refueled and their engines started. They began air activity at 2 p.m. Between 10 a.m. and noon on 28 July, there was no air activity. About 15 Il-10s were parked in the northwestern section of the field. Pistol firing was heard from the adjustment stand.

2. The western section of the barracks area of the airfield was frequented by officers and soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets. The northeastern section seemed to be heavily occupied by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets.

3. [REDACTED]

4. The following air activity was observed at the field between 27 July and 18 August:

27 July. There was no air activity throughout the day although the ground visibility was good.

29 and 31 July. No air activity was observed.

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1 and 2 August. No aircraft were observed aloft except for 1 Po-2 which landed at 6:30 p.m.

3 August. At 11:30 a.m., a Po-2 headed northeast.

4 August. There was no air activity.

5 August. Il-10s made practice flights throughout the day. At 4:45 p.m., four swept-back jet fighters flew over the field.

6 and 7 August. No air activity was conducted. There was a closed ceiling and rain.

8 August. During the morning and afternoon, Il-10s were observed aloft, flying individually and in formations.

9 and 10 August. There was no air activity although the weather was favorable and the visibility good.

11 August. Take-offs were made by 7 Il-10s [redacted] at 6:30 p.m. and by other aircraft at 6:50 p.m. Night flying by ground attack aircraft started at 8:30 p.m. and still continued at midnight.

12 August. There was no air activity.

13 August. During the morning and afternoon, there was individual and formation flying by Il-10s [redacted]. The sky was cloudless.

14 August. During the morning, 1 or 2 Po-2s were repeatedly observed aloft.

15, 16 and 17 August. There was no air activity in hazy weather.

18 August. Il-10s were observed aloft.¹

5. A radio installation with a tapering mast, about 5 meters high, was located in the northeastern extension of the runway south of the horse pond near Leulitz. Next to this radio installation was a small pointed tent. A radio truck and two sentries were also observed there. About 25 meters to the south, there was a PKV-45 DF station.²

6. [redacted]

7. [redacted] The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between 14 August and 2 September:

14 August. Local flights were made by two Po-2s between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. There was no air activity by ground attack aircraft.

15 and 16 August. No ground attack aircraft were observed aloft.

17 August. Between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., local flights were made by a Po-2. There was a 6/10 overcast.

18 August. During the morning and afternoon, ground attack aircraft made local and formation flights and dives, while the weather was clear.

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19 August. There was no air activity. The sky was 8/10 overcast.

20 August. Several MiG-15s crossed over Brandis at 9:45 a.m. A local flight was made by an Il-10 at 11:30 a.m.. Local flights and dives were practiced between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m..

21 August. A ground attack aircraft took off at 8:30 a.m. and landed at 2 p.m.

22 August. Throughout the day, there was air activity by Il-10s. The take-offs and landings apparently were made by inexperienced pilots.

23 August. No air activity was observed at the field.

24 August. Il-10s made local and formation flights and dives until 11 a.m.

26 August. Practice flights were made by Il-10s during the morning. There was a 6/10 overcast.

27 August. At 10:15 a.m., a Li-2 crossed the field at an altitude of 400 to 500 meters. At 6:30 p.m., flying was practiced by ground attack aircraft.

28 August. There was formation flying by Il-10s until noon. A MiG-15 towed a sleeve target which was fired at by AA guns. Between 8:15 p.m. and midnight, about 16 twin-engine aircraft with set position lights flew over Brandis from east to west. [redacted] 54 to 36 Il-10s were parked in the northwestern corner of the field.

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29 August to 2 September. Air activity was repeatedly practiced by ground attack planes. Between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 2 September, a formation of Li-2s crossed over the field. Two of the aircraft which came down to 50 meters above the ground had red propeller hubs. [redacted]

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8. The 6 to 8 tents previously observed in the small woods opposite the main guardhouse had disappeared in late August 1953. The tents were now located between the AAA bunker and the easternmost hangar. The personnel in the tents wore red-bordered black epaulets.

9. Five sheds open to all sides and with slightly vaulted roofs were erected near the tank installation south of the runway. A low brick building with the entrance at the southwestern side was located in the southwestern corner of the shed area. [redacted]

10. On 1 September [redacted] three gun barrels, probably 75 mm, projecting beyond the fence near the adjustment stand. [redacted] AAA had been observed near Leulitz on the same day.

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11. At about 10 a.m. on 15 August, a truck hauled cartridges to the airfield. This ammunition was destroyed between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Each demolition was announced by a red flag at the adjustment stand.

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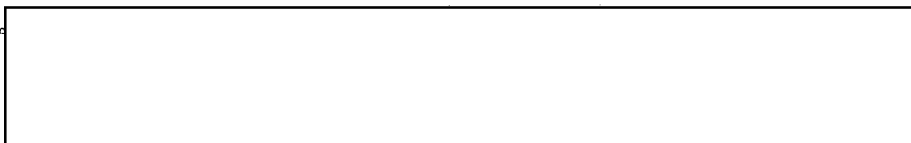


12. A joiner in Solenz who had repeatedly done work for the Soviets stated that he had an order for about 1,000 wooden molds, each about 50 cm long for the casting of cement bombs.


13. Since late August, the Soviets were again permitted to leave the quartering area in groups. The Soviets, however, were allegedly not permitted to spend their furlough at places chosen by themselves but instead were detached in groups to special localities.

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1. Comment. Brandis airfield is occupied by a ground attack regiment equipped with Il-10s. There is formation flying and diving by old crews and initial flying on Po-2s by new pilots. It is not known at which airfield the Li-2s which crossed Brandis on 28 August and again on 2 September are stationed. For sketch of the tactical symbol  see Annex.

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2. Comment. Previously, only the pin-point locations of the two radio installations having one mast in the northwestern corner were known.

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3. Comment. The name of the field commander is reported for the first time.

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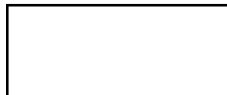
4. Comment. This is the first information that molds for cement bombs are being made by German craftsmen.

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5. Comment. The information that the rules for town leave were relaxed has also been received from other airfields in East Germany.

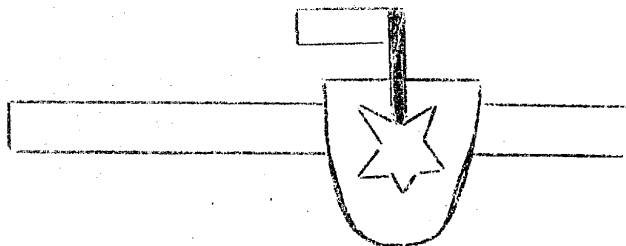
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ANNEX



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Tactical Symbol Observed on a Mi-2 at Brandis Airfield



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